

**Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES: Friday, April 1, 2005, 10:15 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**Department of Natural Resources, Conference Room G09,**  
**101 South Webster, Madison**

**In attendance:**

*Groundwater Advisory Committee members:* Todd Ambs, Andrew Graham, Doug Hahn, Lawrie Kobza, Ron Kuehn, Carol McCartney, Keith Meyers, Robert Nauta, Jodi Habush Sinykin

*Science work group members:* Bob Biebel, Mark Borchardt, Steve Born, Ken Bradbury, David Denig-Chakroff, John Jansen, Jim Krohelski, David Sheard

*Others:* Senator Neal Kedzie, Dan Johnson (Sen. Kedzie's office), Jeff Smith (Trout Unlimited), DNR Staff

\*PowerPoint presentations and other materials referenced in the minutes can be found on the GAC web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gac/index.htm>

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- ☐ Todd Ambs welcomed the GAC members and discussed their important role in determining the next steps for groundwater management in Wisconsin. His remarks were followed by introductions of all in attendance.
- ☐ Senator Kedzie offered remarks about the legislature's intent in creating the Groundwater Advisory Committee, noting that 3 members were still to be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. The GAC's recommendations will go to the two legislative standing committees on the environment and natural resources. One of the most difficult issues is how to provide incentives yet stay focused on long range land and water use planning.

**2. Overview of 2003 Wisconsin Act 310**

- ☐ Todd Ambs gave a brief overview of the Groundwater Protection Act and its major provisions (\*see PowerPoint presentation on website).
- ☐ Ambs also stated that the fee collection system for new wells is going into place on May 1<sup>st</sup> through the DNR's online licensing system (<http://www.wildlifelicense.com/wi/>). High capacity well fees will be collected along with the application for approval.

**3. Review and discussion of Groundwater Advisory Committee's charge**

- ☐ Refer to March 11 memo from Secretary Hassett for more details. (\* on website)
- ☐ The GAC's main task is to provide recommendations in the form of 2 reports to the legislature's environmental/ and/or natural resources standing committees regarding:
  - 1) Groundwater Management Areas (by Dec. 31, 2006)
  - 2) Evaluation of how new legislation is working (by Dec. 31, 2007)
- ☐ Senator Kedzie requested the GAC share information with him and Rep. Gunderson, standing committee chairs, throughout the process. The intent is to keep it as interactive as possible.
- ☐ Questions/comments from the GAC:

- Kobza: Secretary Hassett's memo mentioned "other areas of the state in which the withdrawal of groundwater over the long term...has a significant adverse environmental impact" in the context of additional potential Groundwater Management Areas. The GAC agreed this provision is not technically in the legislation and deleted this statement from the Committee's charge.
- Graham: Is the 150-foot contour marking the boundary of the Groundwater Management Areas set in stone or could be revisited by the GAC? Ambs: The definition of the GMAs as such would have to be re-legislated since it is in the Statute. The actual boundaries have not been determined yet and are subject to interpretation.

- ☐ Senator Kedzie reflected this effort is a living model that perhaps should be upgraded every 3 years to see how we are doing on groundwater management areas and other aspects of the legislation.

#### **4. Introduction and role of science/technical work groups**

- ☐ Two science/technical work groups have been created to assist the GAC in its work. The role of work groups is to be available as a resource to the GAC, respond to specific technical questions, make presentations, and provide background information as needed.
- ☐ The GAC may recommend others to serve on either of these science/technical groups.
- ☐ The GAC will determine communication methods to and from the work groups.
- ☐ Senator Kedzie acknowledged the importance of having the scientific expertise support and noted good public policy combines good science with common sense.

#### **5. Groundwater quantity resources and issues in Wisconsin**

- ☐ Ken Bradbury, Research Hydrogeologist with the WI Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), presented "Groundwater Use and its Consequences in Wisconsin." (\*see PowerPoint on website) Bradbury noted that all groundwater use has consequences, including drawdown, alteration of groundwater flow paths, effects on surface water, and/or effects on water quality.

#### **6. General Comments and Discussion about GAC's tasks ahead**

- ☐ Three things emerged from the discussion:
  - Involve local planners and decision-makers as early as possible
  - Lets learn from others' attempts at regional water management (other states, regions dealing with groundwater drawdowns and water supply issues)
  - Need to gain a better understanding of the current framework of water law in Wisconsin

#### **7. Future meetings and communication**

- ☐ Next meeting scheduled for Friday, June 3, 10 AM - 1 PM: Room G09, GEF II
- ☐ Communication with the GAC will be primarily through email, though correspondence will also occur via regular mail for those who choose. Meeting notes, agendas and background materials will be posted on the GAC web page.